# PERSONALITY FACTORS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS AMONG WOMEN LIVING IN SHELTER HOMES

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## Abstract

The current research focused on exploring the relationship between personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes. The present research aimed to explore the relationship between personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes.

The sample of the study was comprised of N=120 (60 married; 60 unmarried) women living in shelter homes and Dar-ul-Amaan of different cities of Punjab (Pakistan). The age rang of the sample between 18-45 years. Urdu version of Adjective Check List (Fay, Sechrest, & Zaaidi, 1972) and Urdu version of Social Provision Scale by Rizwan and Syed (2010) were used to assess personality factors and social relations respectively.

Statistical analysis was done through Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Independent Sample t-test. Findings of the current study suggested that there was a significant positive correlation (r = .674**,p< .001) between personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes. While no significant relationship was found on personality factors and social relations among married and unmarried women living in shelter homes.

Key Words: Personality Factors, Social Relations, Shelter Homes,

## INTRODUCTION

Women play an important part in general functioning of community and family. They are the most important part of every process that is developing in society. Women in Pakistan perform multiple duties such as care givers, bread winners, managers, supervisor etc.
Despite of the important role that women perform, they are predisposed and experience different challenging life issues. Most of these exercises are biased towards women (Carter, & McGoldrick, 1999).

The family is one of the organizations of community and a relaxing atmosphere within the family composition plays a role to a most advantageous functioning community. The joint family has been one of the strengthened primary social supports for the family members, specifically; the predispose groups such as young, single women, widows, the uninhabited, aged and the sick. Sometimes the member of the family leaves the home by his/her own will or by being forced.

Homelessness explains the circumstances of people exclusive of a regular residence. Individuals who are homeless are probably unwilling but, more generally, unable to obtain and sustain regular, secure, and adequate housing, or lack "permanent organized, and sufficient night-time residence" (Bassuk & Stephanie, 2006).

Female's homelessness is an especial, distinct product of a domineering social system analyzed by feminist and community psychologists. It appears from a complicate interference of factors, together with economic unfairness, racism, prejudice, and marginalization of people with disabilities (Baxter, 1991; Ralston, 1996).

Harris (1991) has suggested various pictures of homeless females: as victim, deportee, predator, and insurgent. Disaffection and disassociation from the authoritarian traditions, in addition to self, blot the condition of homelessness.

The reasons of homelessness that are different to women are quiet not well explained. Some researchers have reported that intense poverty, lack of reasonable housing, and domestic violence could make people to homeless. Other explorations have identified long-term unemployment, shortage in public interests support, psychological illness, or alcohol and drug abuse as probability factors and social refusal (McLaughlin, 2009).

Domestic violence is a specifically serious factor to homelessness because its influences are thus far reaching. Women possibly forced to depart their homes with the intention to safe their own security and that of their offspring. Offensive behavior could also outcome in job loss that maintains women reliant on their users, and keep on to demoralize their self-reliance (McLaughlin, 2009).

Enforced marriages, sexual connections without marriage, interaction before marriage, male child first choice, family issues for example divorce of parents, drug use by parents, parents quarrels, messy behaviors of the parents, all source of anxiety, irritation and mental abnormalities in the minds of the children and the family associates and appear in abnormal performance like escape from home. To match the life demands, homeless women might be involved in robbery, beggary, prohibited prostitutes and turn into members of dishonesty and prostitution groups (Jacob, et al., 2004).

Females, for the reason that they are much susceptible and so repeatedly exploited in our community, sometimes require a next chance. They require a space where they can get well from their bodily and emotional harm, a defense from the safety of which they can inquire for justice, and a service which can help them waiting they are ready to confront the world a different.

Sheltered Homes provide inhabitants the chance to live some place with their personal front door and maintain their autonomy, but have the safety of assistance and guide at hand when required (Helse, et al., 1999)

Dar-ul-Aman is a sub-type of shelter homes in Pakistan. Several of the females who come to these shelter homes are run away unpleasant followers who simply would not head off for identical factors, occupants who wish to go away the Dar-ul-Aman momentarily for a court hearing for instance, require sufficient safety during their visit. The danger to these people is often considerable (Institutionalization: Commission of Inquiry for Women n.d).

Although there are unlimited reasons behind women's homelessness e.g. economical conditions, home environment, and social circumstances etc. personality factors and social relations could also effect the Homeless women.

Personality might be explained as a self-motivated and structured group of characteristics expressed by an individual that exclusively stimulates his or her cognitions, feelings, inspirations, and performances in different circumstances.

In latest years a five-factor model (FFM) has appeared that serves as a useful and significant classification for systematize personality traits. The five key aspects of personality are known as Extraversion, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Neuroticism. Collectively they supposedly stand for the primary aspects of core personality (Costa & McCrae, 1991; Digman, 1990).

Personality traits do not survive in a space; they are only important if they are well thought-out collectively with circumstances where they direct to the appearance of behaviors. In simple words, personality and circumstances are closely entangled in the generation of behavior (Baumeister & Leary, 1995).

In the social science society, the acknowledgment that social connections are necessary to personal wellbeing and enjoyment.

Social relations can also be proposed as a crowd of social associations synchronized by social norms, between two or more individuals, with every one having a social status and performing a social part.

As per my knowledge many researches have been conducted regarded homeless women in western countries, but in developing countries like Pakistan, very few studies have investigated the relationship between personality factors and social relations among homeless women.

The present study was conducted to check out the personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes. The purpose of the study explores the association of personality factors and social relations among homeless women. The importance of the current study is credible in this respect because it shades light that personality factors affect social relations and homelessness of women and vice versa.

The findings of the research can be useful for making homeless women aware of the coping strategies, social skills and suggestions can be given to improve the conditions of shelter homes, which in turns can enhance the mental health and life satisfaction of women living in shelter homes and who are at risk of homelessness. The current research can proved to be useful for further research in the same area.

### *Hypothesis*

*Keeping in view the above mentioned objective following hypotheses are formulated.*

- There would be a positive relationship between personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes
- There would be a significant difference on the scores of personality factors among married and unmarried women living in shelter homes
- There would be significant difference on the level of social relations among unmarried women living in shelter homes as compared to married women living in shelter homes

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Recently Azam, Zahra, Zainab and Sunny (2013) conducted a study to explore "the causative factors which forced the women to join Dar-ul-Aman in Gujrat. Mostly the women in Dar-ul-Aman faced a number of issues, family pressure, personal choice, fear, personality issues and some other family related issues. The major findings showed that the respondent women were forced to join Dar-ul-Aman due to less parental support, family pressures, in-laws pressure, relatives, fear and threat.

Hwang,et al., (2009) studied destitute (homeless) persons often undergo from severe health troubles. It has been argued that the destitute were publicly remote; with short degrees of public support and public performance, and that this need of public resources participates to their poor wellbeing.

Marra, et al., (2009) conducted a study that reported that containing a sympathetic social set-up is commonly helpful for persons, especially those who were destitute or at chance of destituteness. The research explored the impression of divergence and social help on parenting activities in a model of mothers who are dispossessed and were concerned in a research of case supervision involvements of different amount. It was

established that females who proposed more emotional and influential social favor self-accounted higher enhancement in parenting stability over duration than those who accounted small amounts of support.

Another study conducted by Fertig and Reingold (2006) to explore the distinctiveness and factors of homelessness and social relations of females (especially with offspring). Findings recommend that inferences intended to develop and reinforced unofficial and organizational social support among less-income mothers, as well as low-income housing support, will have the major impression on minimizing the possibility of homelessness.

Toohey, Shinn and Weitzman (2004) examined expected bidirectional connection between dispossessed (homeless) and lacking social interactions. Opposite to earlier study results, previously homeless mothers did not exposed fewer structures, more children or some partners. Although, previously homeless females did exposed some constructive functions.

Rowe and Welch (1990) conducted a study in which they established a hypothetical structure for considerations the function of social circles and relations among the homeless females. Results indicated that homeless females establish both colleague and "housed" social connections as a way of managing with their conditions and restoring time-space stability.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Participants*

The sample of the study comprised of women living in shelter homes (N = 120), married women (n = 60) and unmarried women (n = 60). The age range of the participants was 18 to 45 years.

### *Research Instrument*

Adjective Check List (ACL) developed by Gough and Heilbrun (1983) is based on five dimensions of Big Five Model and Provision for Social Relations (PSR) Scale developed by Turner, Frankel, and Levin (1983) were used to collect the data from participants.
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### *Procedure*

The ethical standards of research were considered as the participants were given brief description about the research and insured that information will be kept confidential. After obtaining their consent to obtain participate in the research, questionnaire was given to be filled up and they were assumed that the information they provide will be kept confidential and be used for research purpose. All the participants were given appropriate instructions regarding research and questionnaire.

The participants took 40 to 50 minutes to fill the questionnaires. The researcher faced some problems but the researcher dealt very well with these problems and convinced the respondents for collecting the data.Analysis of the data was run through Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Windows (Version 16.0) in current study. In the present research Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to find out the relationship between personality factors and social relations. Correlational and comparative group research design was used

in the current study.And comparative group design t-test was used to find out the age and marital status difference on personality factors and social relations.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The current research focused on finding out the relationship between personality factors and social relations. It also investigatedthe effect of marital status on personality factors and social relations.

Table 1.

| Social Relations*p* | | |
|---|---|---|
| Personality Factor | .674** | .000 |

*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

This hypothesis was tested by using Pearson Product Moment Correlation to find out the relationship between personality factors and social relations. The above table shows that strong positive relationship was found betweenpersonality factors and social relationsas p< *0.01.

Table

| Variable | Marital Status | N | M | SD | Df | t | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personality Factors | Married | 60 | 2.5379 | .47993 | 118 | -.827 | .410 |
| | Unmarried | 60 | 2.4710 | .40326 | | | |

The above table shows that there is insignificant difference between married and unmarried women living in shelter homes on Personality Factors as p> 0.01. Sample was divided equally as 60 married and 60 unmarried homeless women.
Mean, Standard deviations, t and p values of married (n= 60) and unmarried (n= 60) participants on personality factors.

Table

| Variable | Marital Status | N | M | SD | Df | t | P |
|----------|---------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Social Relations | Married | 60 | 2.1467 | .50822 | 118 | -1.871 | .064 |
| | Unmarried | 60 | 1.9910 | .39637 | | | |

The above table shows that no significant difference was found between married and unmarried women living in shelter homes on Social Relations> 0.01. *Showing Mean, Standard deviations, t and p values of married (n= 60) and unmarried (n= 60) women living in shelter homes on Social Relations.*

There are many factors behind the homelessness of women such as domestic violence, forced marriages, broken families, and negligence from parent side, loss of loved one, financial problems, psychological problems as well as less societal acceptance and social relations and the role of personality factors.

Human beings are described as social animals acquiring an elementary need to connect to others. Major part of activities, considerations and feelings are social, meaning that they are straightforwardly or in some way associate to other people. Accordingly, personality is indivisible interlace with social relationships (Baumeister & Leary, 1995).

Back (2011) offered an incorporate and combined structure for investigating the difficult dynamics of personality and social connections (PERSOC). PERSOC emphasizes the significance of social activities and interpersonal opinion as arbitrating operations prepared in social relationship units. It has significant outcomes for how conceptualize, comprehend, and examine personality and social connections.

Asendorpf and Wilpers (1998) longitudinally explored that personality effects on social connection and vice versa. Personality influenced connections, but not vice versa.

Jan and Akhtar (2008) conducted a study that examined the Decision-Making Power which is a sub-component of personality factors among married and unmarried females. The document exposed that there was no important distinction between married and unmarried females concerning their choice making control.

Very few studies existed on the prominent associations of never married aged females that deal with social separation and isolation, life contentment, and societal support (Allen, 1989; Rice, 1989).

Marieke (2001) recommended in study that the structural settings inside marriages such as impression of person's views of social favor and more intimate partners come to same labour. Study suggested that close marital relations provide more support to partners like in decision making in the house-hold.

In Pakistani collectivistic culture women lived and behaved differently as compared to western individualism. Unmarried women are responding in different way because they are less socially responsible, but after getting married there are various responsibilities and limitations for women. Married women tried to build and maintain new relations at any cost as compared to single women. They bear many injustices to fulfill their duties.

In our family system, women tried to hide the real face of their family due to different issues e.g. social and familial pressure. Family and friends of homeless women advised them to bend down their own feelings and save the family dignity. Our women automatically learned that the honor of their family and husband is their first priority.

## CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Current research was carried out to explore the relationship between personality factors and social relations among women living in shelter homes of different cities. Sample of *(N=120)* women*(n=60)* married and *(n=60)* unmarriedselected from different cities of Punjab province. Pearson Product Moment Co-efficient of Correlation and t-test were used for statistical analysis.

Results indicate a significant positive correlation ($r = .674^{**}, p < 0.01$) between personality factors and social relations. This study has consistent results with the earlier studies, no significant difference was found among married and unmarried homeless women on Adjective Check List (ACL) and Provision for Social Relations (PSR). The sample size should be large because if sample is large then, it will be more representative and the results can be generalized to the whole Pakistani population. Furthermore qualitative research could help to explore in depth information. So that the present study can serve as a beginning for further research in this area.

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